

BOOK REVIEWS

CORONARY HEART DISEASE. The Seventh Hahnemann Symposium. Edited by William Likoff and John H. Moyer. 483 pp. Illust. Grune & Stratton Inc., New York; The Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1963. \$19.50.

The contents are 71 concise papers dealing with all aspects of coronary artery disease, and an up-to-date synopsis of the anatomy and physiology of the coronary circulation and of the metabolism of heart muscle is provided that should be of particular interest to investigators in allied fields. The section on the etiology of atherosclerosis mentions only a few of the currently popular views but others are discussed by various authors in later sections of the book.

The clinical and laboratory aspects of the problem are covered thoroughly and many interesting practical points are raised. Treatment is fully discussed; it is a relief to see some of the unresolved issues such as anticoagulant therapy and the use of coronary vasodilators put into clearer focus. The treatment of complications of acute myocardial infarction is admirably presented. Failure to mention steroid therapy for heart block after infarction and omission of a discussion of modern cardiac resuscitation measures are disappointing.

At times the opinions regarding therapy appear unduly optimistic, for example, in discussing the value of thyroid analogues, estrogens and low fat diet.

In essence this is a very valuable book and is highly recommended to physicians dealing with patients who have coronary disease. In addition to providing a wealth of scientific information it is the work of many experienced writers and provides enjoyable reading for the practising physician.

PHYSIOLOGY OF THE CIRCULATION IN HUMAN LIMBS IN HEALTH AND DISEASE. John T. Shepherd. 416 pp. Illust. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London; McAinsh and Company Limited, Toronto, 1963. \$13.00.

The information in this book was obtained from a wide variety of experiments concerning regulation of circulation in the human extremities. An introduction reviews briefly the different methods used in such studies, but no attempt is made to provide details of the procedures. Emphasis is placed on the experimental results and the conclusions derived from these. The nervous control, local control, and humoral control of the blood vessels of the extremities are discussed in some detail, and consideration is given to effects of heat, cold, exercise, changes in carbon dioxide and pH, and the effects of such agents as 5-hydroxytryptamine, noradrenaline and bradykinin. Reflex effects initiated through baroreceptors in the carotid sinus and in the low pressure side of the circulatory system are outlined.

The changes in blood vessel regulation associated with disease are described. The discussion includes changes observed with Raynaud's disease, intermittent claudication, essential hypertension, orthostatic hypotension, diabetes, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, and a number of other conditions.

The book provides a comprehensive review of the subject, one which will be of great value to physiologists, physicians and surgeons interested in the cardiovascular field. It will be of interest also to practitioners who desire specific information.

AN ATLAS OF ULTRASTRUCTURE. Johannes A. G. Rhodin. 222 pp. Illust. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London; McAinsh and Company Limited, Toronto, 1963. \$10.80.

For the beginner in the burgeoning field of electron microscopy here is a reasonably priced, well-prepared selection of electron micrographs which should provide an adequate introduction to the ultrastructure of cells. The book presents an overall view of the fine structure of mammalian cells, tissues and organs, largely those of the mouse, as seen on the screen of the electron microscope. The electron micrographs have good contrast and reproduction is excellent. The subjects are, in the main, well chosen. Magnifications are suited to the subject; in many cases, particularly in the sections on organs, series of illustrations at gradually increased magnifications introduce finer details of structure step by step. This is of inestimable value to those whose concepts have been formed only with the aid of the light microscope, helping them over the difficult transition from one level to another. The text is concise and relevant with frequent references to the illustrations. It is so placed that the eye travels with ease from text to micrograph and back again.

The author has covered the fields of cytology, histology and organology remarkably well. Omission of some of the endocrine glands which have not yet been fully investigated at this level is understandable, but it is disappointing to find no section on blood. This omission probably reflects the author's recognition of another shortcoming which is of particular importance to the medical student, viz. that the tissues of the mouse are not necessarily similar to human. Where differences occur, however, the author usually mentions them in the text.

While it is apparent that the atlas was designed for students with a broad interest in mammalian tissues, even the medical student with a necessarily more restricted outlook would search far to find a better, more comprehensive introduction to ultrastructure.

PROBLEMS IN SURGERY. From surgical grand rounds at The New York Hospital—Cornell Medical Center. Frank Glenn. 512 pp. Illust. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1961. \$16.50.

This book is a collection of cases presented at grand rounds of the Department of Surgery, New York Hospital—Cornell Medical Center.

Each chapter deals with problems arising in a particular surgical specialty. All major branches of surgery are represented, with the exception of E.N.T. and ophthalmology, and the last chapter deals with a miscellaneous group of cases. A few good references are given. The case presentations are clear and brief, and are followed by an edited version of the discussion provoked among staff members and visitors. The material is interesting, and a wide range of topics is covered. At times the editing of the discussion has resulted in rather jargon-ridden turgid prose which the reviewer feels does not do justice to the verbal powers of the discussants. The editors will be pleased to know that at least one reader felt sufficiently stimulated to want to join in the discussion on several occasions and enjoyed reading about problems outside his own particular field.